

News From _____

U.S. Senator
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Byrd Secures Funding for Local Transportation Projects in Eastern Panhandle and the Potomac Highlands

*\$9.5 Million for Corridor H; \$6.65 Million to Route Nine; and
\$1.425 million to Potomac Street in Harpers Ferry*

WASHINGTON, D.C.... U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., has announced funding for significant road improvements in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia as part of the recently passed FY09 Omnibus Appropriations bill. Projects receiving federal dollars in the bill include Corridor H; Route 9; and Potomac Street in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

“With the approval of these funds, I have continued my commitment to improving the infrastructure throughout our great State,” Byrd said. “These projects are an integral component in our overall efforts to create jobs, reduce traffic, make travel safer, and spur economic development in West Virginia.”

CORRIDOR H

Byrd secured \$9.5 million for Corridor H, which remains the only unfinished corridor highway in West Virginia as part of the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS). Corridor H is planned to stretch from I-79 at Weston through the Potomac Highlands to the Virginia state line. Nearly 30 miles of Corridor H have been completed, and another 14 miles are currently under construction, while final environmental/design work has begun on another 30 miles. This \$9.5 million will be used primarily for work on the roadway between Davis and Forman, West Virginia. The \$9.5 million that Byrd secured is on top of the \$341.2 million that he has already added for Corridor H in previous years. These dollars are also over and above the level of funding the State receives from its annual ADHS formula funding.

“I am pleased to once again be able to direct funding toward the completion of Corridor H in the Eastern Panhandle,” Byrd said. “This important Corridor moves us closer and closer to completion of the West Virginia portion of the ADHS system with every bit of funding that it receives, and I am proud to continue to help with this effort.”

ROUTE 9

Byrd obtained new funding totaling \$6.65 million for West Virginia Route 9 in the Omnibus Appropriations bill. These funds will be directed primarily toward preliminary construction work between Charles Town and the Virginia State Line. According to West Virginia Division of Highway officials, roadwork between Kearneysville and Martinsburg is either complete or under construction. The \$6.65 million comes in addition to the \$149.84 million that Byrd has secured for the development of Route 9 since 1991.

“Upgrading hazardous Route 9 has been a goal of mine for almost 20 years now,” Byrd said. “These additional funds will not only help Route 9 progress towards becoming a convenient, safe route in the Eastern Panhandle, but will also assist in stimulating the local economy.”

POTOMAC STREET

Also among the money Byrd secured was \$1.425 million for the Town of Harpers Ferry to improve Potomac Street. This money will be used to place utility wires underground, repair streets, and construct new sidewalks and facades on Potomac Street, which runs parallel to the Potomac River in downtown Harpers Ferry.

“These funds will enable progress to continue of maintaining the unique historical charm and heritage of Harpers Ferry,” Byrd added.

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